BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 11-37* *September 16, 2011*

- **Housing starts drop 13.7% in August**
- **One in twelve "online" British Columbians were victims of cyber-bulling in 2009**
- **Canadian travel in BC rises 3.8% in 2010**

The Economy

- **Total housing starts in British Columbia slumped 13.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) in August.** While rural starts in the province jumped 11.1%, the number of new urban housing projects tumbled 15.3%, driven by double-digit declines in starts of apartments (-16.4%), semi-detached (-22.2%) and row housing (-37.0%) units. In Vancouver, urban starts slipped 6.6%.

  Nationally, housing starts fell 9.7% in August, eroding gains made in each of the two previous months. Most provinces recorded weaker starts, particularly in Atlantic Canada (-36.3%). Only Saskatchewan (+1.8%) and Alberta (+19.8%) saw housing starts increase.

  Data Source: Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation

- **Manufacturing sales in British Columbia advanced slightly (+0.7%; *seasonally adjusted*) in July.** Producers of wood products (+5.7%), furniture (+3.4%), non-metallic minerals (+2.2%) and miscellaneous goods (+10.1%) all made significant gains. However, the transportation equipment (-4.9%), machinery (-2.5%) and food (-1.7%) industries all posted weaker returns.

  Nationally, shipments of manufactured goods rose 2.7%, primarily due to stronger sales in Ontario (+4.7%) and Alberta (+3.0%). Manitoba (-1.6%), Saskatchewan (-2.4%) and PEI (-9.3%) each registered a downturn in shipments. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Dealerships across British Columbia sold fewer (-2.8%; *seasonally adjusted*) new motor vehicles in July.** A slowdown in the number of North American-built cars (-5.5%) and trucks (-4.8%) was the reason for the drop in total sales. In contrast, sales of new foreign-built motor vehicles were up 4.7%.

  Nationally, sales of new motor vehicles slumped 6.2% in July as sales stalled in nearly every province. Only Nova Scotia (+1.1%) posted an increase in new motor vehicles sales. In the remaining provinces, declines ranged from 2.8% in British Columbia to 9.6% in New Brunswick.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Internet Victimization

- **In 2009, 253,000 adults in British Columbia, accounting for approximately 8% of the province's internet users, were victims of cyber-bullying.** BC (8%), Alberta (8%), Saskatchewan (8%) and Nova Scotia (8%) reported the highest rates of cyber-bullying, while those in Quebec (5%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (5%) posted the lowest. Internet bank fraud rates were highest in British Columbia (5%) and Ontario (5%), statistically ahead of the national average (4%).

  Problems with purchases made via the internet were, however, the most commonly cited form of internet victimization in 2009. An estimated 15% of British Columbia internet users reported, whether due to error or fraud, failure by merchants to deliver purchased products, delivery of products different from those purchased or unauthorized charges against their account. *Data Source: SC Cat. no. 85-002-X*

Report **BC's Mining Sector Digging Up More Export Dollars**

Did you know...

Roughly two-thirds (66%) of British Columbians reported that the terror attacks of 9/11 and the resulting additional security have not impacted the likelihood of travelling overseas.

Data Source: Ipsos Reid

University Tuition Fees

- **Full-time undergraduate students in British Columbia paid an average of $4,852 in tuition fees for the 2011/2012 academic year, an increase of 2.0% from the previous year.** Compared to the rest of the country, however, the increase in undergraduate tuition seen in BC was comparatively slower than the Canadian average (+4.3%). The largest year-over-year increase in tuition was recorded in Ontario (+5.1%), followed by Quebec (+4.5%) and Nova Scotia (+4.3%). Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province that did not raise undergraduate tuition fees for 2011/2012. Undergraduate tuition fees in BC for the present academic year were fourth lowest in the country and well below the Canadian average ($5,366).

  Tuition for full-time graduate studies in British Columbia cost an average of $7,303 for 2011/2012, slightly higher (+1.7%) than the rate charged a year earlier. At the national level, graduate tuition rose 3.7% with Ontario (+5.5%), Quebec (+5.0%) and New Brunswick (+4.4%) posting the largest year-over-year increases. Graduate tuition fees remained virtually unchanged in both Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta. Compared to the rest of the country, tuition for full-time graduate studies in BC in 2011/2012 ranked third highest among the provinces and was significantly higher than the Canadian average ($5,599). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canada-wide, students in dentistry ($16,024) programs paid the highest tuition fees among undergraduates for the 2011/2012 academic year.** Undergraduate tuition fees in medicine ($11,345) and pharmacy ($9,806) were also among the highest. Pharmacy students also saw the most substantial increase (+8.8%) in tuition compared to the previous year. Undergraduates in visual and performing arts, and communications technologies programs, on the other hand, saw a slight reduction (-0.4%) in tuition fees.

  Graduate students enrolled in executive ($37,501) and regular ($21,528) masters of business administration programs continued to pay the highest tuition fees by a wide margin. Engineering studies at the graduate level, however, saw the largest increase (+20.7%) in tuition fees for the 2011/2012 academic year.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Tourism

- **Canadians made 22.6 million person-trips within British Columbia in 2010, a 3.8% increase over the previous year.** Nearly half (49%) of Canadians travelling in BC did so while on vacation and just over one-third (34%) said they were in BC to visit family and friends. Only 6% of Canadian travel to BC was for business purposes.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **On a per capita basis, national net worth rose 0.9% during the second quarter of 2011.** Notwithstanding the increase in total net national worth, net household worth edged down slightly (-0.3%) as growth in the value of residential real estate assets (+1.3%) was offset by a decline (-3.2%) in equity holdings. This is the first recorded decline in household net worth since the second quarter of 2010.

  Credit market indebtedness among households rose to $1.55 trillion, pushing the country's credit market debt to personal disposable income ratio to 148.7% in the second quarter. During the previous quarter, this ratio was measured at 147.3%.

  Net worth in the corporate sector tripled (+226.8%), while net indebtedness in the government sector increased by nearly half to $93 billion. *Data Source: SC Cat. no. 13-022-X*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

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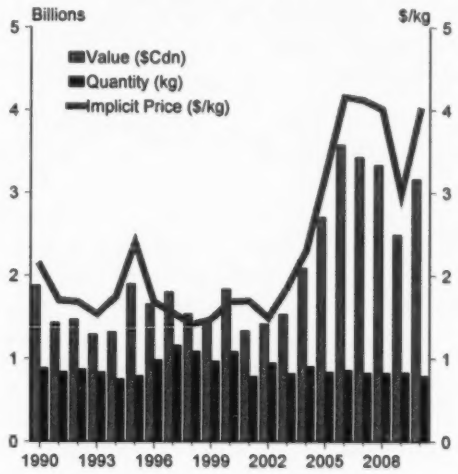
BC's Mining Sector Digging Up More Export Dollars

There has been significant price inflation for most major metals in the last few years and BC's mining sector has benefitted from the higher prices. The value of exports of metallic mineral products from BC is up substantially compared to a decade ago and higher prices are the primary reason for the increase.

The value of BC's metallic mineral exports has been well above average over the last several years due to higher prices



Source: Statistics Canada

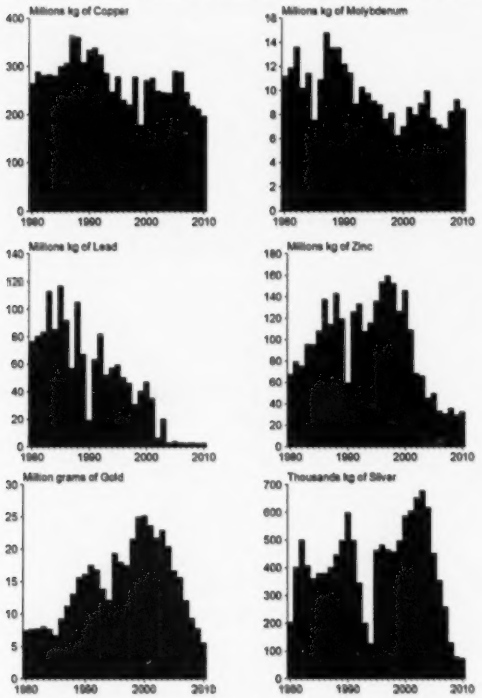
The higher returns for metallic minerals have prompted resurgence in BC's mining industry. In mid-August, the first major new mine in British Columbia in over a decade opened near Princeton. The Copper Mountain Mine is the third-largest copper mine in Canada and, when fully operating, is expected to employ 270 workers over an estimated mine life of 17 years.[1] In addition, there are currently two other major mines under construction: the Mount Milligan Mine in the Mackenzie region and the New Afton Mine near Kamloops. There are also a number of potential new mines currently involved in the Environmental Review Process. Additionally, some sites in the northwest region of the province that have up to now been uneconomical could become viable mines in the near future once the Northwest Transmission Line (NTL) is completed. The NTL will provide less costly access to power to that region of the province and will not only help move existing mining projects along, but will also likely be the impetus for further exploration in the region. Major mining projects that could benefit from the NTL include the Red Chris and Galore Creek ventures.

These new mines have the potential to significantly boost the value of BC's exports. Over the last decade, virtually all the growth in the value of metallic mineral exports has been due to price inflation as the quantities shipped have remained fairly flat. The main reason for this is the lack of new mines and the closure of some existing mines. For British Columbia, in the last few years at least, the volume of metallic minerals shipped from the province has been driven more by supply than demand.

As can be seen in the following chart, there have been significant declines in BC shipments of lead, zinc, gold and silver. The closure of the Sullivan Mine near Kimberly in 2001 is the main reason for the drop in lead and zinc shipments, while the shutdown of the Eskay Creek Mine near Stewart in 2008 is the explanation for much of the decline in gold and silver shipments. Early this year, the Kemess South Mine in the north central part of the province stopped production. Kemess South was a major producer of copper and gold.

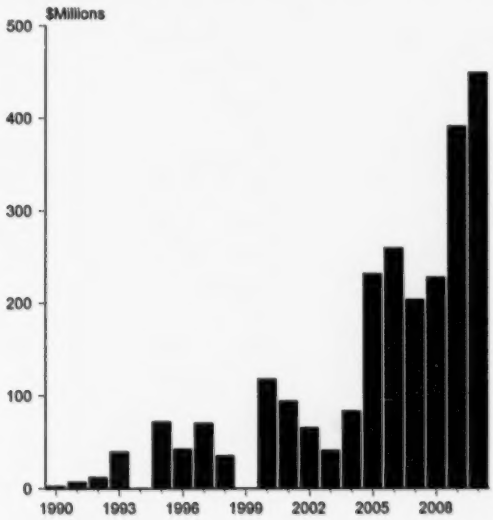
[1] Source: Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Metallic Mineral Production in BC is Down


Millions kg of Copper
Millions kg of Molybdenum
Millions kg of Lead
Millions kg of Zinc
Million grams of Gold
Thousands kg of Silver

Source: British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Mines

BC's exports of metallic minerals to Mainland China have soared in recent years



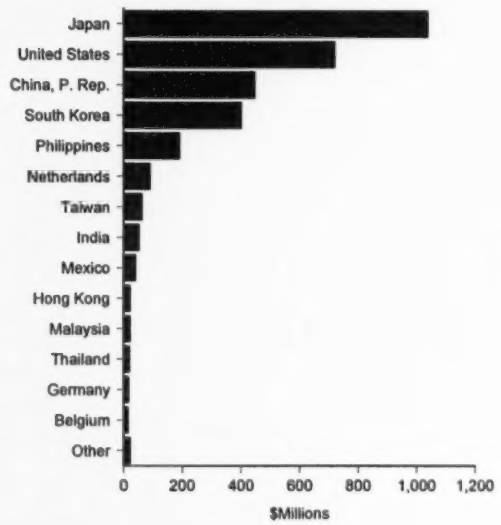
Source: Statistics Canada

The higher prices resulting from strong demand for metallic mineral products provide clear incentive for developing mineral prospects in BC into working mines. The surge in demand for metals has largely been driven by countries in Asia, particularly China. BC's exports of metallic mineral products to Mainland China in 2010 were 162 times the value shipped to that country in 1990. Between 2005 and 2010, the value of exports of these goods to China almost doubled (+93%). Copper ores and concentrates comprise most of the metallic mineral shipments to China (92% in 2010).

While exports to China in 2010 were significant, it ranked only third behind Japan and the United States as a destination for BC exports of metallic minerals. South Korea was ranked fourth, just behind Mainland China. Together, these four countries were the destination of more than 80% of BC's exports of metallic mineral products.

Copper ores and concentrates made up 67% of BC's metallic mineral exports to Japan, while shipments of unwrought aluminum were also significant (20%). The top metallic mineral exports to the United States were unwrought zinc (69%) and unwrought lead (17%). The large majority of BC's metallic mineral shipments to South Korea consisted of either unwrought aluminum (55%) or copper ores and concentrates (36%).

In 2010, the top four destinations accounted for over 80% of BC's metallic mineral exports

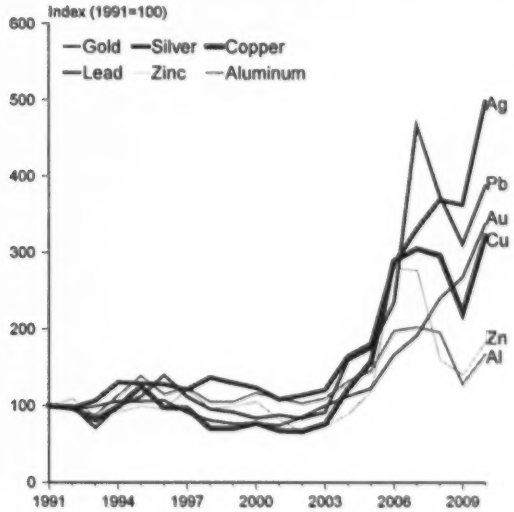


Source: Statistics Canada

Over the last several years, growth in metallic mineral shipments to these four countries in particular has helped boost the value of BC's exports of these goods to new heights, exceeding $3 billion for the first time in 2006. While there was a substantial decline in 2009 due to the global economic downturn, exports rebounded 27.0% in 2010, which was almost enough to offset the drop from a year earlier. So far in 2011, it appears that BC is set for another robust increase in exports of metallic mineral products. Year-to-date to July, shipments are up 24.8% compared to the same period in 2010.

Along with the rest of the economy, prices for most metals slumped in 2009, but rebounded in 2010 and continue to climb in 2011. Silver has doubled in value in the last year and gold is up by almost 50%. BC's largest metallic mineral export is copper and prices for copper have risen around 20% in the last year.

Metal prices have climbed significantly in the last few years



Source: British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Mines

Given the persistent demand for metals from countries such as China, it is likely that metallic mineral exports will remain one of the stronger commodity groups with respect to BC exports in the coming months and years. Certainly, given the price inflation experienced so far this year, it would appear that 2011 will be another banner year for BC's mining industry.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,563.3	1.1
Canada	34,349.2	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jul 2011	3,121	0.7
Merchandise Exports - Jul 2011	2,725	-1.1
Retail Sales - Jun 2011	4,948	0.4
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jul 2011)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.7	2.3
Vancouver	1.6	2.4
Victoria	1.6	2.1
Canada	2.7	2.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug 2011	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-6.0	
Labour Force - BC	2,452.2	0.0
Employed - BC	2,268.1	-0.3
Unemployed - BC	184.1	2.7
		Jul 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.5	7.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.3	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Sep 14/2011	Sep 15/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.50	3.30
- 5 year	5.39	5.39
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Sep 14/2011	Sep 15/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9913	1.0282
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0093	0.9743
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug 2011	one year ago
BC	839.93	0.8
Canada	839.99	1.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

BC Regional Population Projections

The British Columbia and PEOPLE36 (Population Extrapolation for Organizational Planning with Less Error) regional population projections are now available. This latest population projection covers the period 2011 to 2036, with information available for numerous provincial geographies including Local Health Area, Health Service Delivery Area, Health Authority, School Districts, Regional District and Development Region. Access the release article British Columbia 2036, which provides some PEOPLE 36 highlights, or view projection details on our website.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/popproj.asp

Socio-Economic Profiles & Indices, 2010

The regional socio-economic profiles present data in tables and charts on population, economic hardship, labour market, education, crime, health, immigrants, and risk factors for children and youth. The socio-economic indices summarize social and economic conditions over a wide variety of indicators into a single composite index. When viewed together, these indices provide a summary measure of the relative successes and challenges across regions of the province and provide policy makers with information that supports fact based decision-making when allocating budgetary resources.

The socio-economic profiles are available for various regions within the province, including: Development Regions, Regional Districts, Local Health Areas, College Regions, School Districts, Health Service Delivery Areas, Health Authorities, and custom geographies. The socio-economic indices are available for Regional Districts and Local Health Areas.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- No subscription releases

Next week

- Consumer Price Index, August 2011

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